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Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 ERDA-05 NRC-05 HEW-02

DOTE-00 NASA-01 COME-00 NSF-01 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 CEQ-01 EPA-01

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R 251301Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3137

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DEPT PASS TO HEW

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, TGEN, OVIP (MATTHOEFER, HANS), GW
SUBJECT: DHEW/FRG AGREEMENT FOR HEALTH COOPERATION --
MATTHOEFER VISIT

REF: A. BONN 14924, B. STATE 211727, C. BONN 14441,
D. BONN 04489 (MARCH 1975), E. STATE 226710

1. SUMMARY: AS REQUESTED IN REF B, FOLLOWING IS
STATUS AND HIGHLIGHTS OF PROPOSED FRG TEN-YEAR
PROGRAM FOR "RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY SERVING
HEALTH." DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH HEW OFFICIALS
ON OCTOBER 7 AT 14:30, FRG RESEARCH MINISTER
MATTHOEFER WILL BE PREPARED TO REVIEW THE PRESENT
HEALTH RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS OF HIS MINISTRY (SEE PARA 10, REF D) WHICH
ARE VIEWED AS PARTICULARLY SUITABLE FOR US-FRG
COOPERATION. HE WILL REVIEW ON-GOING US-FRG CONTACTS
IN CANCER RESEARCH AT THE SCIENTIST-SCIENTIST LEVEL
BETWEEN THE GERMAN CANCER RESEARCH CENTER AND THE NCI
AND ENDORSE THESE STRONGLY. HE WILL PROBABLY ALSO
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OUTLINE THE PROPOSED TEN-YEAR HEALTH RESEARCH

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PROGRAM BUT IN VERY GENERAL TERMS SINCE IT EXISTS
ONLY AS A CONCEPT AT PRESENT TIME. END SUMMARY

2. IN JANUARY 1975, FRG MINISTERS FOR RESEARCH AND
TECHNOLOGY AND FOR YOUTH, FAMILY AND HEALTH AFFAIRS
(HANS MATTHOEFER AND KATHARINA FOCKE, RESPECTIVELY)
AGREED TO DEVELOP A TEN-YEAR PROGRAM WHICH WOULD
REFLECT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOTH MINISTRIES FOR
RESEARCH IN GENERAL FIELD OF HEALTH. WORKING TITLE
SELECTED FOR PROGRAM: "RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY SERVING
HEALTH." A FIRST DRAFT OUTLINE OF THIS NEW PROGRAM
IS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE TWO MINISTERS ON FEBRUARY 28,
1976. SUBSEQUENTLY, IT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC
AND TO THE GERMAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY FOR OPEN
DISCUSSION. THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE PROGRAM HAS
NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED BUT PROBABLY NOT BEFORE 1977.

3. THE TWO MINISTRIES, BUNDESMINISTERIUM FUER FORSCHUNG
UND TECHNOLOGIE (BMFT(AND BUNDESMINISTERIUM FUER
JUGEND, FAMILIE UND GESUNDHEIT (BMJFG), ARE
PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH IN THE
FRG. THE BMFT HOLDS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR BASIC
HEALTH RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT; THE
BMJFG EMPHASIZES LEGISLATION AND RESEARCH RELEVANT
TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES. THE NEW PROGRAM WILL,
HOWEVER, COORDINATE ALL HEALTH-ASSOCIATED R&D IN
THE FRG INCLUDING THE BASIC MEDICAL RESEARCH
SPONSORED BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR SCIENCE AND
EDUCATION (BMBW) THROUGH THE GERMAN RESEARCH SOCIETY - DFG
AND THE PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY
FOR LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE FIELDS OF
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEMS,
DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION.

4. THE PROGRAM WILL EMPHASIZE RESEARCH UNDER PRIORITIES
SET BY A "NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY." THE POLITICAL
DECISIONS REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH THESE PRIORITIES
ARE PRIMARILY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BMJFG.
THE PROGRAM WILL HAVE AS ITS MAIN OBJECTIVE RESEARCH
AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT EXPECTED TO MAKE A
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SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLUTION OF NATIONAL
HEALTH PROBLEMS. IT WILL INCLUDE BOTH RESEARCH
SPONSORED TO MEET SOME SPECIFIC NEED AND GENERAL
SUPPORT TO THE GERMAN SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS
CONDUCTING MEDICAL RESEARCH. IT WILL INCORPORATE
ON-GOING PROGRAMS, I.E. THE BMFT BIO-MEDICAL
ENGINEERING PROGRAM, AND TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE
BASIC MEDICAL RESEARCH FINANCED BY THE DFG AND

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EXISTING MEDICAL R&D EFFORTS SUPPORTED BY THE "LAENDER" (STATES). THERE WILL BE, HOWEVER, NO EFFORT TO DOMINATE OR DIRECT THE BASIC MEDICAL RESEARCH SUPPORTED FROM FEDERAL-GOVERNMENT FUNDS WHICH IS CONDUCTED OR SPONSORED BY THE "INDEPENDENT" DFG OR THE INSTITUTES OF THE MAX PLANCK SOCIETY.

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5. FRG RESEARCH PROGRAMS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL OR NUTRITIONAL ASPECTS OF HEALTH WILL BE CONSIDERED DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW PROGRAM BUT NOT EXPLICITLY INCLUDED.

6. THE DRAFT PROGRAM WILL BE DEVELOPED IN THREE STEPS:
A. AN INVENTORY OF FRG CAPABILITIES IN HEALTH RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, I.E. MANPOWER, INSTITUTIONS, PROGRAMS, RELEVANT INDUSTRIAL COMPETENCE,ETC. THIS TASK WILL BE PERFORMED BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS UNDER CONTRACT.

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B. AN ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE SITUATION TO IDENTIFY PROBLEM AREAS. THIS WILL INCLUDE DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES, A REVIEW OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, ETC.

C. AN ANALYSIS OF THE GERMAN HEALTH "SCENE" -- MEDICAL STATISTICS, ETC.

THESE STUDIES WILL PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A "NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY" TO GUIDE THE TEN-YEAR PROGRAM.
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7. THE FORTHCOMING DRAFT PROGRAM WILL PRESUMABLY BEGIN WITH AN INTRODUCTION DESCRIBING THE GERMAN HEALTH SITUATION AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CAPABILITIES. PROBLEMS WILL BE IDENTIFIED IN PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, REHABILITATION AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES. APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS WILL BE DRAWN AND SPECIFIC PROGRAMMATIC MEASURES WILL BE LISTED. THESE WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE GOALS RELATED TO IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE AND REDUCTIONS IN THE COST OF MEDICAL SERVICES.

8. AS LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT WILL PROBABLY FOCUS ON PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, EARLY DIAGNOSIS, NEW DIAGNOSTIC TECHNOLOGIES, REHABILITATION AND THE OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM. WITHIN THESE BROAD OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE NEW "NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY" WHICH MIGHT SELECT, FOR EXAMPLE, CERTAIN DISEASES OR UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL CONDITIONS AS SPECIFIC TARGETS.

9. EMBASSY COMMENT: MINISTER MATTHOEFER MAY WISH TO DISCUSS THESE PROGRAM PLANS WITH HEW OFFICIALS DURING HIS PLANNED OCTOBER 6-8 VISIT TO THE US.
AS STUDIES FOR THIS NEW PROGRAM PROCEED FURTHER, THERE SHOULD EMERGE AREAS FOR MUTUALLY -BENEFICIAL US-FRG COOPERATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. SPECIFICALLY, THE METHODOLOGY DEVELOPED TO ANALYZE THE STATUS OF GERMAN HEALTH AND THE STATISTICS AND CRITERIA THROUGH WHICH THE CONCLUSIONS ARE REPORTED TO THE GERMAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE OF INTEREST TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN THE US. WE RECOMMEND THAT HEW BE PREPARED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO MINISTER MATTHOEFER'S OUTLINE OF THESE PROGRAM PLANS.
HILLENBRAND

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